GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6001
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2001
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE PROCUREMENT CENTRES
HEMA GAMANG

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open agricultural produce procurement centres at least at the Block level/Panchayat level to ensure procurement of agriculture produces at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) in the country;

(b) if so, the time by which such centres are likely to be opened;

(c) the number of such centres already functioning in the country, State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure minimum support price to the farmers for their produces and to stave off the situation where the farmers are not compelled to use potato like crops as fertilizer in their fields as they did last year?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) to (d): Twenty four major agricultural commodities like cereals, pulses, oilseeds, cotton, jute and sugarcane are covered under the Minimum Support Price (MSP)Scheme. Nodal agencies have also been set up, for these different commodities, which undertake procurement as and when prices fall below the Minimum Support Prices. The Nodal agency for the procurement operations of cereals, which constitute the major component of procurement operations, is Food Corporation of India (FCI) and a list ofpurchase centres opened by FCI either individually or jointly with States agencies or bythe State agencies for Rabi 2000-2001 and Kharif 2000-2001 is given at Annexures-I & II, respectively. Information in respect of procurement centres for other crops operated by nodal agencies such as National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation ofIndia (NAFED), Cotton Corporation of India and Jute Corporation of India is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House. Perishable Commodities like Potato are not covered under the MSP Scheme, and the Government is implementingfor them Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) under which procurement is undertaken whenever their prices decline steeply. The Scheme is implemented at the request ofthe State Governments and losses, if any, incurred due to the operation of the MIS, are shared on 50:50 basis between the State and the Central Government.

Annexure-I

List of purchase centres being operated during 2000-2001 (rabi)

Sl.No.	STATE	FCI	JOINTLY WITH STATE AGENCIES	STATE AGENCIES	TOTAL
1.	PUNJAB	446	49	1059	1554
2.	RAJASTHAN	22		118	140
3.	HARYANA	40	90@	227	357
4.	BIHAR	26			26
5.	MADHYA PRADESH	22		1086	1108
6.	UTTAR PRADESH	44		4881	4925
	Total	600	139	7371	8110

@ Out of 90,35 jointly operated with FCI and the remaining 55 jointly by other agencies

Annexure-II

List of purchase centres/mandis operated during 2000-2001 (kharif)

S.No.	REGION	PADDY/COARSEGRAIN FCI	JOINTLY	STATE AGENCIES	TOTAL
1.	PUNJAB	460	87	1040	1587
2	HARYANA	22	10	192	224
3.	UTTAR PRADESH			1400	1400
4.	DELHI	4			4
5.	RAJASTHAN	12			12
6.	ANDHRA PRADESH	173		156	329
7	MADHYA PRADESH			2155	2155
8.	WEST BENGAL				
9.	KARNATAKA	18		13	31
10.	PONDICHERRY	2		2	4
11.	ARUNACHAL PRADESH				
12.	BIHAR	40		512	552
13.	ORISSA	42			42
14.	HIMACHAL PRADESH	2			2
15.	MAHARASHTRA			255	255
16.	JAMMU & KASHMIR	2			2
	Total	777	97	5725	6599